

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 09422 222024Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 IO-13 ICA-11

COME-00 TRSE-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-11 OIC-02

/093 W

-----080951 230448Z /10

R 221741Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2981

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 9422

PASS USDA/AID

FODAG

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: AORG, WFC, OCON

SUBJ: FOURTH SESSION WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFC)

1. FODAG HAS LEARNED FROM SEVERAL SOURCES THAT ROME G-77 IS REVIEWING ALL DOCUMENTS FOR COUNCIL MEETING AND MAY ATTEMPT TO PREPARE ITS OWN SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS OR RESOLUTIONS. (FAO IS PROVIDING BOTH ROOM AND TRANSLATION SERVICE.) THEY PRESENTLY PROPOSE TO HAVE KHALIL OF SUDAN, CHAIRMAN OF ROME G-77, PRESENT RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREPCOM DIRECTLY IN NAME OF ROME G-77, BYPASSING THE BUREAU WHICH IS TO MEET IN MEXICO JUNE 1 AND 2. SOME MEMBERS (LED BY CARANDANG OF PHILLIPINES) BELIEVE THAT TO BYPASS WOULD HURT WFC (BUREAU MADE UP OF FOUR G-77 COUNTRIES AND ONE DC) AND INCREASE CONFRONTATION AT PREPCOM. ALSO, AS SUDAN NOT MEMBER OF COUNCIL, PRESENTING G-77 RECOMMENDATIONS RAISES PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS.

2. BOTH SECRETARIAT AND MODERATE G-77 MEMBERS FEEL IT UNWISE FOR THEM TO TRY AND STOP G-77 FROM DEVELOPING DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS. THEY FEEL IT IS BEST TO SEE IF:

(A) G-77 CAN EVEN AGREE ON FINAL SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS;

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PAGE 02 ROME 09422 222024Z

AND (B) IF THEY DO SO, LET THE MODERATES IN G-77 TRY TO PERSUADE GROUP TO PRESENT THEM TO BUREAU WHERE IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE REDUCE AREAS OF CONFLICT.

3. FODAG UNDERSTANDS G-77 PLANNING TO FINALIZE RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROACH ON MAY 26.

4. TANCO HAS BEEN INFORMED BY WALTERS OF THESE

DEVELOPMENTS WITH RECOMMENDATION THAT HE CONTACT AS MANY
LDCS AS POSSIBLE INDICATING ANY G-77 RECOMMENDATIONS SHOULD
GO THROUGH BUREAU.

5. COMMENT: FODAG DOES NOT BELIEVE IT ADVISABLE FOR MISSION TO
BE SEEN IN TOO GREAT OPPOSITION TO POSSIBLE G-77 RECOMMENDATIONS
UNTIL OUTCOME OF G-77 DELIBERATIONS MORE CLEAR, THOUGH WE HAVE
INDICATED OUR GENERAL MISGIVINGS. FODAG BELIEVES THAT G-77
MEMBERS NOT ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTION FROM THEIR GOVERNMENTS; AND
SOME, AT LEAST, ARE ACTING OUT OF SPITE THAT PREPCOM NOT HELD
IN ROME WHERE THEY COULD DO THEIR THING. THERE IS ALSO
UNDERLYING DISAPPOINTMENT WITH VAGUE NATURE OF WFC DOCUMENTATION.
FODAG WOULD CAUTION THAT WHILE SOME MEMBERS OF G-77 MAY HAVE
AGREED TO PUT FORWARD RECOMMENDATIONS, IT IS NOT AT ALL CLEAR
WHAT, IF ANY, RECOMMENDATIONS GAUW AS A WHOLE WILL BE ABLE TO
AGREE ON. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ROME09422
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780216-0440
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780533/aaaabblj.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: feb70799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2615367
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOURTH SESSION WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFC)
TAGS: AORG, OCON, IT, WFC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/feb70799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014